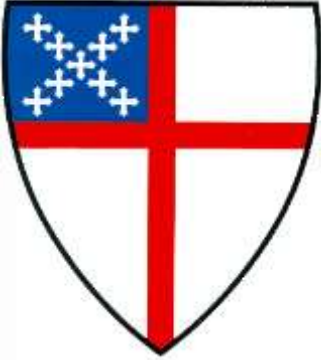


2019



PRAYER FOR DISCERNMENT

Almighty God, giver of every good gift:
Look graciously on your Church, and so
guide the minds of those who shall
choose a rector for this parish, that we
may receive a faithful pastor, one who
will care for your people and equip us
for our ministries; through Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.



To the Prospective Rector,

Grace Episcopal Church is a loving family of worshipers looking for knowledge and spiritual growth. We offer our new Rector the opportunity for continued spiritual, personal and educational advancement. Our new rector will meet a joyful, friendly and loving congregation looking for ways to enrich our service to God and his Church.

Grace Church is involved in the local community and beyond through various outreach programs. We are dedicated to the Diocese of Oklahoma and to our Bishop. Tradition and history influence our parish. We pride ourselves in offering a worship service that is a meaningful expression of God and tradition.

Grace Church places a high priority on calling a rector who is skilled at communicating the Gospel through thought-provoking and spiritually uplifting sermons. We are accustomed to traditional services and sung liturgy.

It is essential that our future rector is a leader in developing Christian Education for all youth. It is also important to have experience in actively seeking and adding new members. Our new rector should be a capable and compassionate minister of pastoral and personal crisis issues.

Grace Episcopal Church welcomes a rector who is well-versed in biblical and theological matters, one who will interact with parishioners in a relaxed and interpersonal style while discussing new issues. We value a rector who will be active in nurturing our members' development of stewardship for the work of God. We hope that our future rector is outgoing, friendly and socially engaging.

Parish Life and Organizations

Members of Grace Episcopal Church have many strengths and talents that are utilized during worship and outreach to help each other and those in our community in the service of God.

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of Grace Church is very active. The ECW meets monthly and hosts several successful fundraisers throughout the year, including: spring and fall rummage sales, book/collectible sale, game day, talent exhibit, food fair in November, and gift shop sales. The proceeds are used for parish projects and outreach. Recent recipients of ECW outreach are: Camp New Hope, BARHD, Child Development Center, Golden Villa, The Mission, Hospice of Northern Oklahoma, St. Jude's, Guild of the Christ Child, St. Francis Academy, and gifts for children through the Salvation Army Angel Tree.





St. Martha's Altar Guild is a dedicated group of fifteen parishioners who are responsible for preparing the altar and caring for vestments, vessels, linens, and other items used for worship.

The acolyte program has participants from age eight through high school that participate during worship on Sunday.



The Parish Fellowship Committee organizes potluck suppers, receptions, ice cream socials, as well as food and refreshment for our annual "Mass on the Grass" worship and picnic.

The Esther Chapter of Daughters of the King is active in prayer, study and service with 21 members. The DOK meets once each month. Meetings begin with the Holy Eucharist or Morning Prayer and special prayers for the parish payer list. The DOK service ministry includes assistance to the Hospice of Northern Oklahoma, Camp New Hope, and the Child Development Center. One of the outreach programs is to play bingo with residents at Golden Villa.



The Episcopal Young Community group (EYC) is led by a dedicated group of parents. The EYC meets weekly with activities for the youth of Grace Church, including Youth Sunday which occurs during the 10:00 am Sunday service on the second Sunday of each month.

Worship



At Grace Episcopal Church we are comfortable using both Rite I and Rite II liturgies. We enjoy a traditional style of worship with organ and choir.

The Wednesday morning Mass begins at 10:00 am and typically uses Rite I liturgy. The service is spoken with no music.

The Sunday services begin at 8:00 am with Mass that typically uses Rite I liturgy. This service is spoken with no music.

The Sunday services continue with Mass at 10:00 am that typically uses Rite II liturgy. The service is sung with traditional hymns and anthems. During Lent, we are used to using Rite I liturgy along with the Penitential Order.

Evensong services occur on the second Sunday of the month from September through May. The adult and youth choirs participate.

The Rosary, sponsored by the Society of Mary, is prayed once each month on the third Wednesday at 5:30 pm.

Deacon Steve leads worship at Church of the Ascension in Pawnee, Oklahoma on the second Sunday of every month. Members of the Grace Church congregation visit once each quarter for worship and fellowship.



Music

The Adult Choir and Youth Choir are meaningful components of worship at Grace Church. Our choirs prepare music to inspire and provide reinforcement of the lessons learned during Mass. The Youth Choirs follow the *Royal School for Church Music* curriculum, “Voice for Life.” The Adult Choir sings throughout the year at the 10:00am Sunday service as well as at funerals and monthly Evensong. The Youth Choir sings at the 10:00am Sunday service during the school year. The Adult Choir has ten dedicated members, and the Youth Choirs have 19 members.



The Möller
Pipe Organ
in the

sanctuary was installed in 1967. It is a beautiful instrument that is regularly maintained. Recent modifications and updates have ensured its playability for years to come.

The people of Grace Church enjoy hosting guest organists and choirs. Ponca City’s community choir and high school choir frequently perform and rehearse in our sanctuary and parish hall.

Outreach and Pastoral Care

Grace Episcopal Church is active in many outreach activities. The time and talents contributed by our members make a significant impact on our surrounding community.

Friendship Feast is an ecumenical effort to provide free hot meals to anyone in need. Many churches and civic organizations in Ponca City volunteer to provide the meals on a rotating schedule.

Friendship Feast is hosted four days each week at the First Christian Church. The Episcopal Church of the United States has named Friendship Feast a Jubilee Center, and a member of our parish is on the Board of Directors. This outreach can serve between 60 and 130 individuals each evening.



Grace Church’s pastoral care committee is made up of members who serve as Lay Eucharistic Visitors and Lay Eucharistic Ministers. LEV volunteers provide communion and spiritual support for those who are unable to participate in our corporate worship. The pastoral care committee also extends its care for the community through an annual coat drive called Warm a Child.



A canine “member” of the church and his owners have implemented pet therapy pastoral visitations. Wesley is registered through *Therapy Dog International*. He has performed hundreds of visitations to area nursing homes and has recently been certified to provide support during disaster recovery.

The Canterbury Club at Northern Oklahoma College is a new outreach ministry with great potential for growth. This ministry seeks to reach college students at Northern Oklahoma College in Tonkawa through monthly meetings and activities.

The Jail Ministry at the Kay County Detention Center has been fulfilling. Typically, the Rector has travelled to the detention center in Newkirk to host a service and to meet one-on-one with inmates.

Christian Education



Christian Education is a high priority at Grace Episcopal Church for youth and adults alike. Youth Sunday School is led by a team of volunteer teachers each Sunday during the school year. This ministry reaches children of all ages.

Tuesday morning Bible Study is led by a parishioner each week.

Vacation Bible School occurs for one week each

summer with a new theme. Youth of all ages are encouraged to participate. This program reaches youth from our parish and beyond.



The Adult Forum is a recent addition to the adult education program. This program meets every Sunday from 9:00-9:45am. It is led by the Rector, Deacon or visiting contributors and the topics vary based on current events or subjects that are of interest.



Traditions



Grace Church's Epiphany Pageant has been presented each year for 73 years. Over 20 youth members are involved, from ages three to college. The pageant is entertainment and education at its best with new antics every year including dueling shepherds and runaway sheep. Following the Epiphany Pageant is a fellowship reception where a new Epiphany "King" or "Queen" is crowned by finding a ring in the cake. We have records of each "King" and "Queen" dating back to 1945.

The men prepare a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper each year to precede our Lenten fasting. The

meal is complete with sausage, syrup and coffee.



Blessing of the Backpacks occurs each year at the beginning of the school year. Youth are encouraged to bring their backpacks for prayers and blessings for academic success.



Mass on the Grass is the annual outdoor Eucharist and picnic held in a private park by the Arkansas River. Church men grill the hamburgers and hotdogs and parishioners bring side dishes and dessert. Recently the youth have participated in the Eucharist by providing the music. This annual tradition is an excellent way for the parish to invite friends to enjoy the Episcopal liturgy in a fun way.

Blessing of the Animals honors St. Francis of Assisi. Members of Grace Church bring animals of all kinds to this service held in our courtyard near a statue of St. Francis.

Grace Church enjoys decorating a float and singing patriotic songs during the annual Ponca City Veterans' Day Parade.

History of Grace Episcopal Church

A small group of Episcopalians began worship services in 1898 using the Book of Common Prayer. The little congregation known as St. Andrew's Episcopal Church was served by out-of-town clergy on a periodic basis. By 1902, the congregation included seven families and services were held at the Masonic Hall at the southeast corner of Grand Avenue and Fifth Street.



Between 1912 and 1914, the church's name was changed to Grace Episcopal Church because the church in Stillwater was taking the name St. Andrew's. Membership steadily increased each year, and in 1914 the Guild Hall was erected on lots purchased behind City Hall on Fifth Street and Grand Avenue. The Guild Hall was moved in 1923 to Seventh Street and Central Avenue to make room for the Civic Center expansion. A parish house was built and first used on February 10th, 1931.

Grace Episcopal Church was granted "parish status" at the annual convocation of the Missionary District of Oklahoma in January 1937. During the same year at General Convention, the Missionary Districts of Oklahoma and Indian Territory were combined to become the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma. Grace Church celebrated its 120th anniversary this year on Pentecost Sunday. Lunch was provided after the service, and 50 red balloons with special messages were released to commemorate the day!

The Reverend Thomas D. Moehle, formerly rector of Church of the Ascension in Stillwater, Minnesota, became rector of Grace Church on February 1, 1944. During his tenure, our present church was designed and constructed at 13th Street and Grand Avenue. Groundbreaking for the new building happened on April 15, 1951, and the dedication service was held on June 1, 1952. During construction, the old Parish House was moved, and currently functions as the Parish Hall.

In the 1980's, the men of the church constructed a beautiful Columbarium dedicated to the memory of our



dearly departed brothers and sisters. The Christian Education building, designed by a parishioner, was a significant capital project completed in 1997. This addition includes infant and toddler nurseries, Sunday school classrooms for all ages, a fellowship area, library, gift shop, and cloister connecting it to the sanctuary.



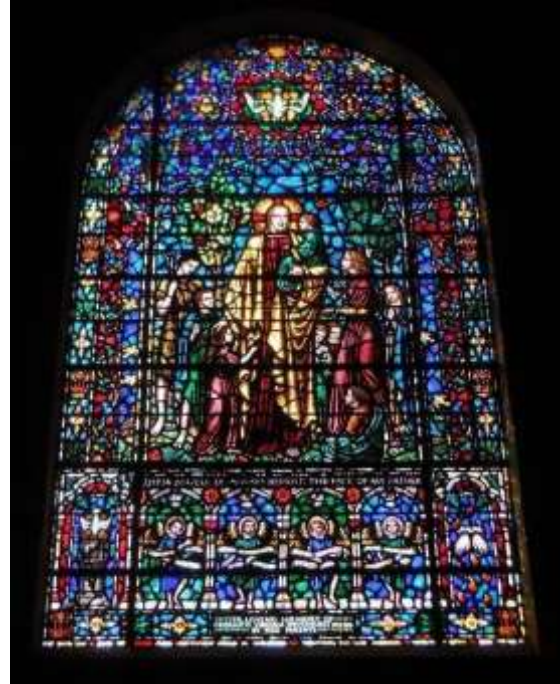
Our beautiful campus is well-maintained in praise of God. Over 70 stained glass windows, which have been designed and installed as gifts of thanksgiving and memorial, adorn our sanctuary and education building. Beautiful cast stations of the cross remind us of Jesus' sacrifice.

Parish Leadership

Senior Warden	Richard Winterrowd
Junior Warden	Marsha Moore
Chancellor	Guy Clark

Vestry

Ann Armstrong
Judy Branch
Dorothy Buck
Glenn Cassity
Marcia Davis
Darelynn Harris
Anne Michael
Casey Orr
Nga Wells



Ponca City Community

Ponca City's population is just under 25,000 and is situated within a 90-minute drive from Wichita, Oklahoma City, and Tulsa. Ponca City offers the quality-of-life advantages of a small community with ready access to metropolitan amenities. Ponca City has a rich history, much of which is intertwined with the boom of the oil industry.

The public school system in Ponca City is thriving with excellent community support. Projects from a recent \$35 million bond issue include: a concert hall, football press box, secure entrances to school facilities and other cosmetic updates. Enrollment district-wide is near 5,000 students. The school district is accredited through the Oklahoma State Department of Education as well as the North Central Association. Ponca City is also home to three private religious schools. Ponca City is 40 miles north of Stillwater, Oklahoma which is home to Oklahoma State University, and 15 miles East of Tonkawa, Oklahoma which is home to Northern Oklahoma College.

Ponca City Quick Facts

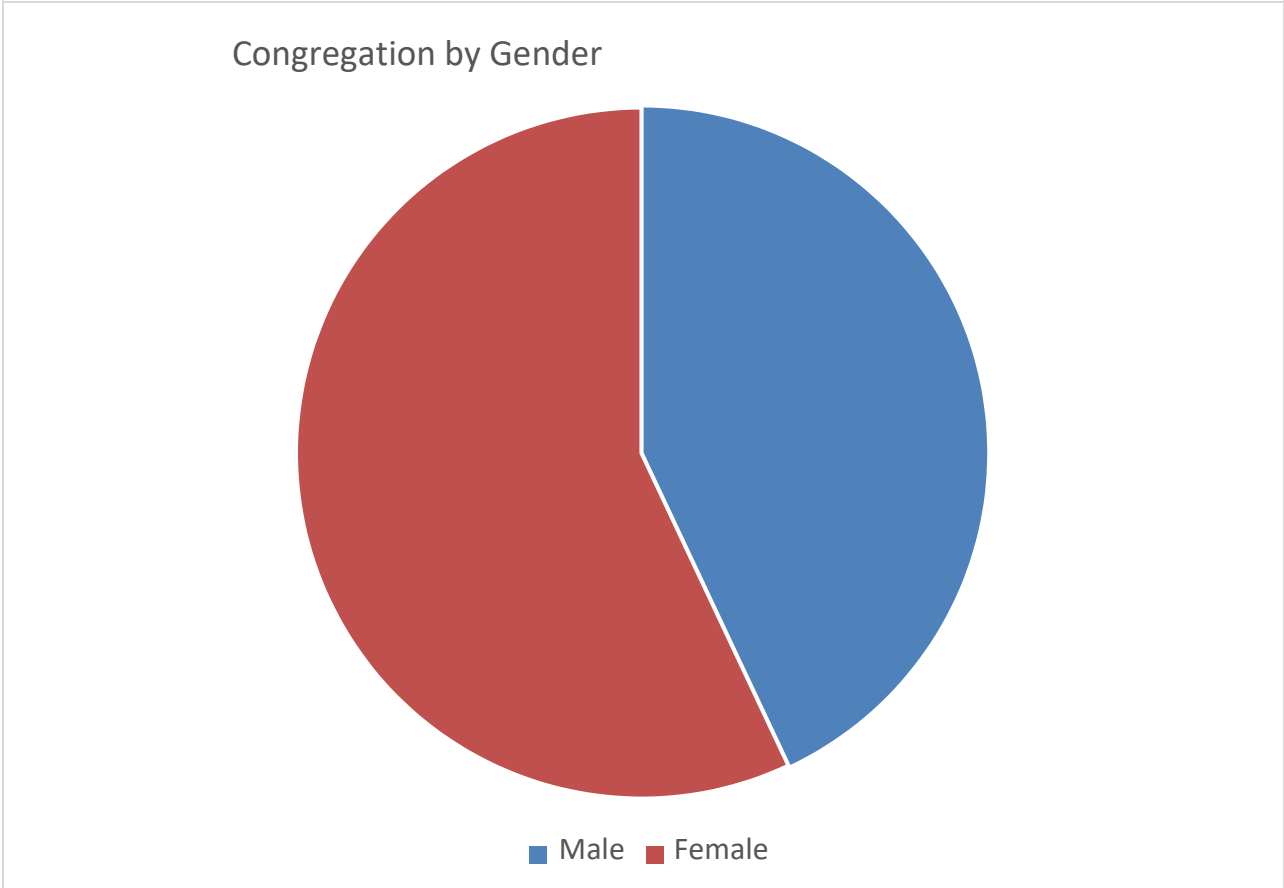
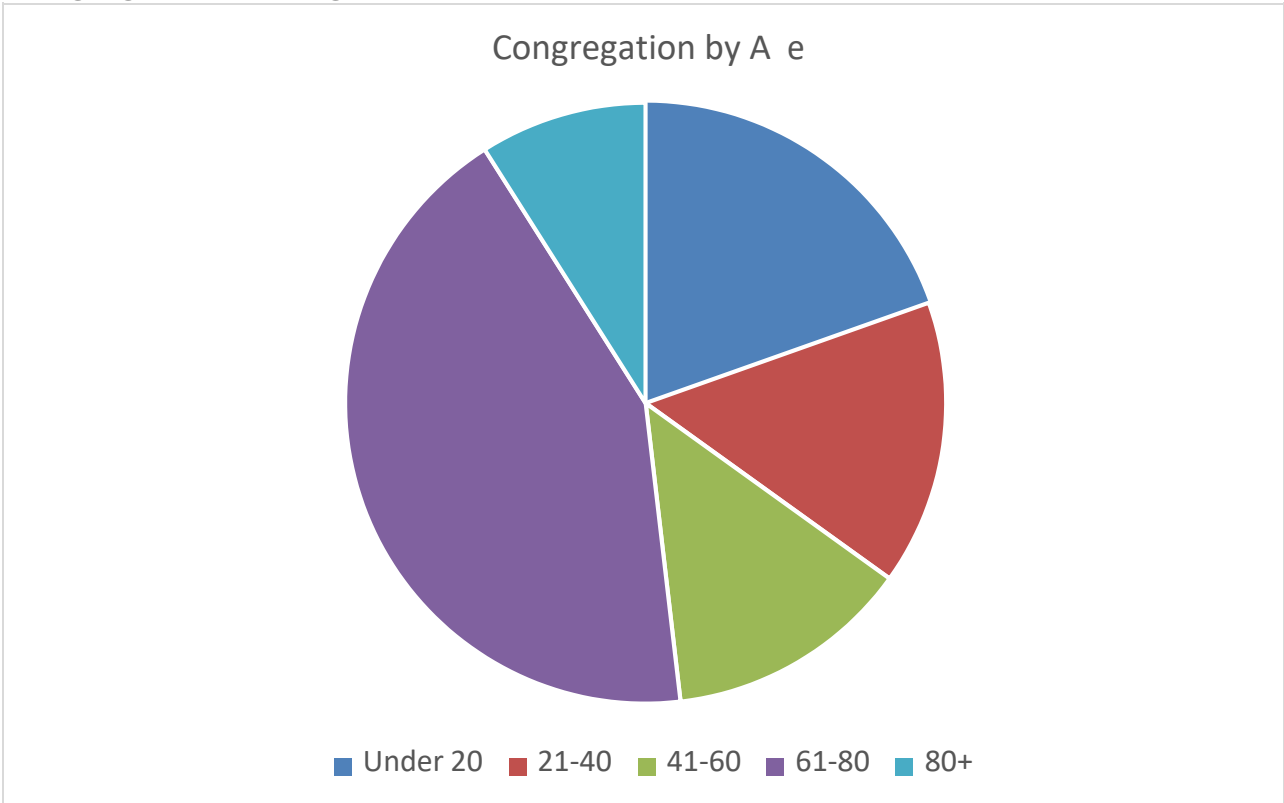
Population	24,527
Median Age	36.6 years
Average Household Income	\$41,591
Sales Tax	8.667%
Property Tax	0.743%
Cost of Living	80.8% of National Average

Visit the following websites for more information on Ponca City's history, cultural institutions and development strategies:

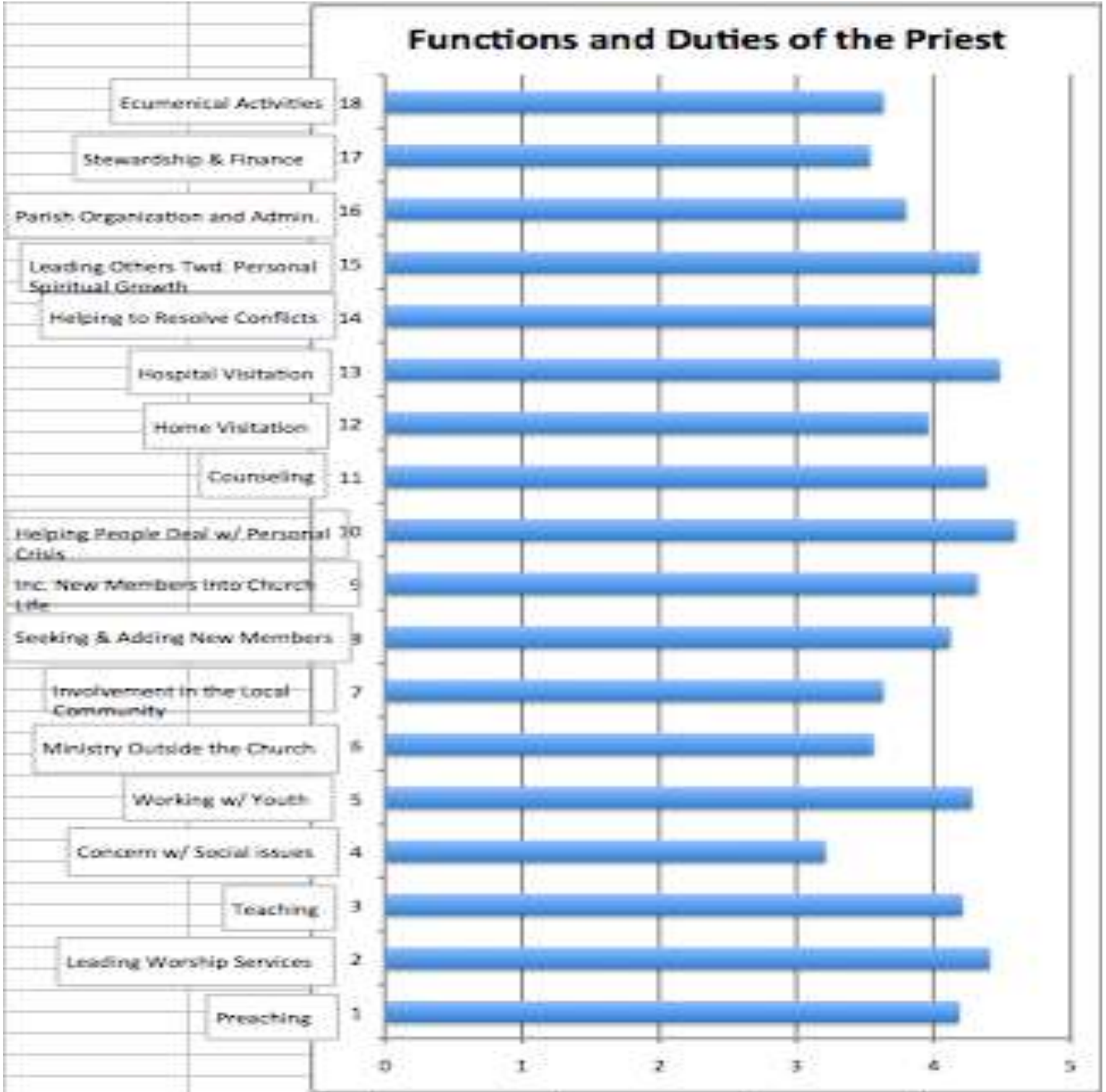
www.poncacityok.gov
www.poncacity.com

www.GoPONCA.com
www.Travelok.com/ponca_city

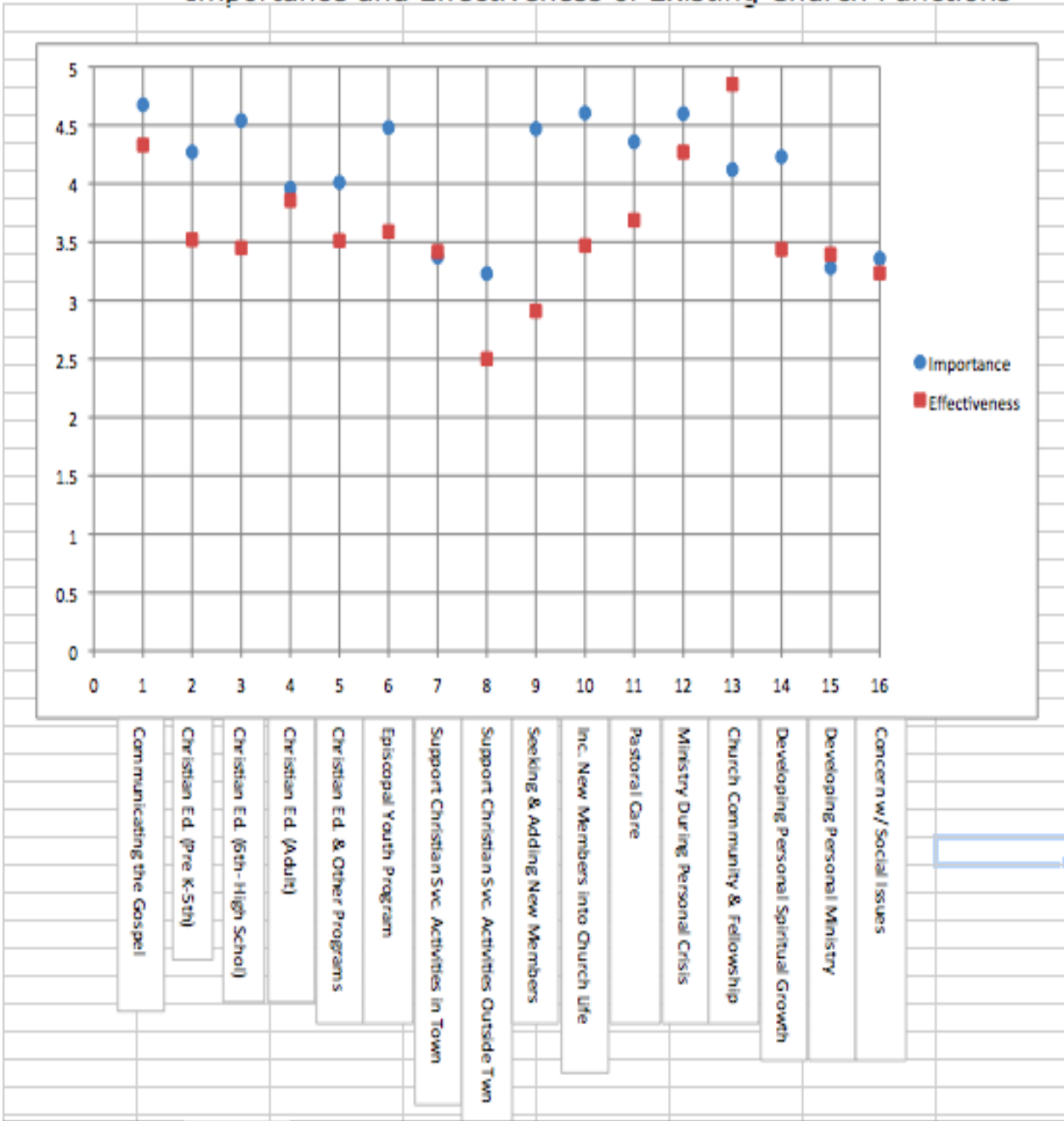
Congregation Demographics



Congregational Surveys



Importance and Effectiveness of Existing Church Functions



Stewardship and Finances

Everlasting Grace is a new addition to planned giving at Grace Church. The purpose is to establish a steady and sustainable support for the ongoing ministries of Grace Episcopal Church. The program has a one million dollar goal. Individuals and families can participate in the Everlasting Grace Stewardship program through cash donations, inclusion in wills and generally remembering Grace Church in estate planning. Participation allows one to leave a lasting imprint on the future ministry of the church.

Report from the Pledge Secretary Annual Congregational Meeting January 28, 2018

	2016 Final	2017 Final	2018 at Jan 22
Pledged Amount	\$223,014	\$194,804	191,004
Endowment	\$17,200	---	---
Number of Pledges	77	57	51
Supplemental Pledge Amount	\$24,100	---	---
Supplemental Pledges	34	---	---

Increase in Amount Pledged	19 units
No Change in Amount Pledged	29 units
Decrease in Amount Pledged	---
New Pledges	3
Regular Pledges Moved/Deceased	2
Pledge Increased by at Least 10%	9

Interested? Please respond by sending your resume and a copy of your OTM Portfolio to the Rev. Canon Michael Durning at CanonMichael@epiok.org

